

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 01045 200925Z

20

ACTION EB-07

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CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TS

SUBJ: 1974 TRADE ACT-GSP

REFS: STATE 28219 AND PREVIOUS; TUNIS 869

1. DURING CALL BY UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TABOR ON PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA ON FEB 15, NOUIRA STATED THAT TUNISIA HOPES VERY MUCH TO BE INCLUDED ON LIST OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO BENEFIT FROM US GENERABLIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) AS PROVIDED IN 1974 TRADE ACT. HE NOTED THAT WHILE HE HAD NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY STUDY LAW IN DETAIL, HE WAS AWARE OF ITS GENERAL PROVISIONS AND FELT THAT ENTRY INTO US MARKET FOR CERTAIN TUNISIAN PRODUCTS WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL FOR TUNISIAN DEVELOPMENT. NOUIRA STATEMENT WAS IN RESPONSE TO COMMENT BY UNDER SECRETARY TO EFFECT THAT HE THOUGHT USG WOULD BE PREPARED GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO INCLUDING TUNISIA ON LIST OF BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES FOR GSP IF THIS WERE DESIRED BY GOT.

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 01045 200925Z

2. AS NOTED PARA 2 TUNIS 869, TUNISIAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM EMBASSY HAS BEEN DISCUSSNG TRADE ACT HAD EARLIER INDICATED THAT THEY WISHED STUDY TEXT OF 1974 TRADE ACT AND IMPLICATIONS OF VARIOUS PROVISIONS BEFORE MAKING FORMAL APPROACH REGARDING TUNISIAN DESIRE BE INCLUDED AS BENEFICIARY COUNTRY. PRIOR TO TABOR VISIT, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD TOLD EMBASSY THAT, AFTER THOROUGH STUDY OF ACT, GOT FELT TUNISIA FULLY QUALIFIED FOR BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION UNDER TITLE V. THEY NOTED THAT TUNISIA HAD NO INTENTION TO JOIN OPEC, ALTHOUGH T MAINTAINS OBSERVER STATUS, PRIMARILY THROUGH ITS DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN VIENNA. TUNISIAN OFFICIALS WERE SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN AS TO PRACTICAL MEANING OF TEXT OF SECTION 502(B)(2) REGARDING OTHE COMMODITY RESOURCES BUT FELT THT TUNISIAN INTEREST IN FAIR RETURN FROM PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY WAS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH ACT'S PROVISIONS AS THEY UNDERSTOOD THEM. THEY INDICATED THAT DURING UNDER SECRETARY'S VISIT GOT WOULD EXPRESS ITS INTEREST IN BEING INCLUDED ON LIST OF BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES. SUBSEQUENT TO TABOR-NOUIRA MEETING, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION HAMED AMMAR CONFIRMED THAT NOUIRA STATEMENT REFLECTED CAREFULLY CONSIDERED GOT POSITION.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE STATEMENT BY NOUIRA CAN BE TAKEN AS FORMAL EXPRESSION BY TUNISIA OF DESIRE TO BE DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY OF US GSP AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 502(C)(1) OF ACT.

4. RE QUESTIONS RAISED STATE 26555, TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO OUTSTANDING CASES OF NATIONALIZATION OF US PROPERTY AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 502(B)(4) AND (6) WHICH WOULD PREVENT TUNISIA FROM BEING ELIGIBLE FOR GSP.
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